2. Delhi-Mumbai

3. Delhi-Chennai

4. Saharsa-Amritsar.

(c) Due to repeated and frequent fare increases over a period of time, the AC classes fare became substantially higher than fares of other Classes. Higher AC class rail fares became the target area for airline operators. Railways have taken a conscious decision to reduce the fares for AC-2 Tier and First by lowering the relativity index from 720 to 650 and 1400 to 1150 respectively in the Railway Budget 2006-07.

(d) Railways are incurring heavy losses from Sleeper Class and Second Class (ordinary) which are subsidized through earnings from Upper classes of passenger services and freight services. Any reduction in fares of Sleeper and Second Class (Ordinary) will increase losses.

Rail-Roko agitation

2530. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local people to Talcher are on rail-roko agitation since 9th February, 2006 for an indefinite period;

(b) whether Railways are incurring revenue loss of Rs. 2 crores daily due to agitation;

(c) the monthly revenue earning from Talcher Station in each month during the precedings two years prior to the ongoing agitation;

(d) the details of previous rail-roko agitation in 2000, alongwith the period of agitation, revenue loss incured, local demands and fulfilment of such demands;

(e) the present demands of the local people; and

(f) whether Government would accept the demand in public interest and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) Yes, Sir. The local people of Telcher under the leadership of Shri P.C. Sahoo under the banner of All Parties

Coordination Committee to save Talcher Railways Station started indefinite Rail Roko agitation from 06.00 hrs. of 09.02.2006 at Bantulu level crossing gate of Talcher Station.

(b) East coast Railway is incurring a revenue loss amounting Rs. 80,00,000/- (approximately) daily due to the agitation.

(c) Monthly Revenue Earning of Talcher Station (both goods and coaching) for the year 2004 and 2005 is as below:-

Revenue Earning (both goods and coaching)

Month	2004 (Rs. in crore)	2005 (Rs. in crore)
January	83.37	82.04
February	80.28	78.05
March	94.08	83.08
April	93.63	83.28
May	83.76	72.00
June	79.59	68.36
July	80.02	75.74
August	69.33	75.47
September	74.92	71.53
October	76.49	83.55
November	73.57	75.83
December	77.94	71.84

(d) In the year 2000, All Party Coordination Committee to save Talcher Railway Station organized Rail Roko agitation from 01.04.2000 to 26.04.2000 demanding all Express trains running on Bhubaneswar-Sambalpur route to run *via* Talcher Station. At present, 8451/8452 Puri-Hatia Tapaswini Express (daily), 8407/8408 (New No. 8507/8508) Visakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Hirakud Express (weekly), 8405/8406 Puri-

Ahmedabad Express (weekly), 2145/2146 Bhubaneswar-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (weekly), 211/212 Puri-Sambalpur passenger (daily) and 221/ 222 Angul-Khurda Road passenger (daily) are running *via* Talcher Station.

The revenue loss incured due to the agitation was Rs. 02.29 crores (Approx.).

(e) The present demand of local people is to run train No. 8303/8304 (Sambalpur-Puri Intercity-Express), 8413/8414 (Bhubaneswar-Sambalpur Express) and train 8473/8474 (Puri-Jaipur Express) *via* Talcher Railway Station.

(f) Running of additional trains as demanded *via* Telcher has been examined but not found operationally feasible and not commercially justified, hence not in national interest.

Backlog of track renewals

2531. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of backlog of track renewals during the last five years;

(b) the estimated time to clear the backlogs; and

(c) how these works would be funded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) Track maintenance is a continuous process. Track renewals are also carried out as and when they become due for renewal on age-cum-condition basis and availability of funds and resources.

The track renewal works due for renewal at the beginning of each year are as under:

As on	Track Kms.
1.4.2001	17500
1.4.2002	16559
1.4.2003	17889
1.4.2004	15096
1.4.2005	10100